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GENERAL NOTES

The Adolfo Stahl Lectures in Astronomy.—Several announcements of the publication in book form of the two series of Adolfo Stahl Lectures in Astronomy have already been made in these PUBLICATIONS. The volume is now ready for distributions and copies may be obtained for $2.75 each, postpaid, on application to the Secretary of the Society, Mr. D. S. Richardson, 128 Lick Building, 35 Montgomery street, San Francisco, Calif.

The contents of the book are as follows:

The Solar System, by W. W. Campbell.

What We Know about Comets, by W. W. Campbell.

A Total Eclipse of the Sun, by R. G. Aitken.

The Moon, by R. G. Aitken.

The Nebulae, by H. D. Curtis.

Astronomical Discovery, by H. D. Curtis.

The Important Epochs in the Development of Astronomy, by R. T. Crawford.

Our Nearest Star, The Sun, by C. E. St. John.

News from the Stars, by R. G. Aitken.

Recent Progress in the Study of the Motions of Bodies in the Solar System, by A. O. Leuschner.

The Brightness of the Stars, Their Distribution, Colors and Motions, by F. H. Seares.

The 100-Inch Reflecting Telescope, Mount Wilson.

The last paper has been compiled by the editor, with the assistance of members of the Staff of the Mount Wilson Observatory, to take the place of the lecture on this subject delivered by Professor G. W. Ritchey which he, unfortunately, was unable to put into written form because of the pressure of work for the government in connection with the war.

The book is substantially bound in full art-vellum and is illustrated by fifty-six full-page half-tone plates and twenty-four figures in the text. These illustrations include photographs and drawings of solar phenomena, the Moon, the planets, the comets, the nebulae, star-clusters, and star-clouds of the Milky Way; portraits of great astronomers and photographs of astronomical instruments, particularly the great telescopes on the Pacific Slope.

Each lecture has been revised by its author and the statements in it represent our knowledge of the subject treated at the close of the year 1918. The book will therefore serve as an introduction to many phases of modern astronomy.

The International Astronomical Union.—In accordance with decisions made by leading representatives of the sciences at meetings held in London in October, 1918, and in Paris in November, 1918, there will be a meeting of astronomers of the allied countries in Brussels, Belgium, on July 16, 1919, to organize an International Astronomical Union. The representatives from the different countries have been chosen by the leading academies of sciences and astronomical societies. An American delegation is in process of selection by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, and the American Astronomical Society. Director W. W. Campbell of the Lick Observatory has been appointed chairman, and Professor Joel Stebbins of the University of Illinois, secretary, of the delegation. It is hoped that the complete personnel of the delegation may soon be announced. The American delegation will have five votes in the conference, but the provisional rules have placed no limit upon the number of delegates who may take part in the deliberations. W. W. C.

The Cawthron Trust and Solar Observatory.—Dr. C. E. Adams, Government Astronomer, Wellington, New Zealand, sends a clipping from the New Zealand *Dominion* for March 17, 1919, on the Cawthron Trust and its aims. It appears from a statement by Mr. T. A. H. Field, one of the Trustees, to a Parliamentary Committee, that the Trust now holds a cash fund of £213,000 in addition to lands valued at £5570. The trustees plan to keep the capital fund intact at £200,000 and to pay for buildings, equipment, etc., from the income.

Among their plans are two which will be of interest to our readers. First, the founding of seven scholarships and fellowships with annual stipends ranging from £105 to £250, open to all New Zealand and designed to stimulate scientific training and education in that dominion. Second, the establishment in Nelson, New Zealand, of a Solar Observatory. "The late Mr. Cawthron was very much interested in the establishment of a solar observatory in Nelson, whose climate is particularly suited for this purpose. . . The land was purchased for the observatory before the late Mr. Cawthron's death."

It is understood that Dr. G. E. Hale has agreed to prepare a plan for an observatory equipment of suitable instruments which will be inexpensive and at the same time capable of giving most valuable results. The plan contemplates that the observations secured shall be reduced and discussed in America, presumably at Pasadena. It is to be hoped that this project may be put into execution at an early date.

Recent Medal Awards.—Two eminent French scientific men have been honored by recent medal awards. The gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has been awarded to M. Guillaume Bigourdan for his extensive series of observations of nebulae carried out during the past twenty-five years. The results of M. Bigourdan's work have now been published in five volumes under the title *Observations de Nébuleuses et d'Amas Stellaires*. The Henry Draper medal of the National Academy of Sciences has been awarded to M. Charles Fabry. M. Fabry is Professor of Physics in the University of Marseilles, but his determinations of the absolute wave-lengths of spectral lines by means of the interferometer are of fundamental importance to the astrophysicist; and he and his associates, moreover, have applied the interferometer directly to the measurement of radial velocities in the Great Nebula of *Orion*. He is therefore eminently worthy of the award of a medal given for notable investigations in astronomical physics.

Dr. Frank Morley, Professor of Mathematics in the Johns Hopkins University and editor of the American Journal of Mathematics, will head the Department of Mathematics in the Summer Session of the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Morley will give a course in reflexive geometry and will conduct the mathematical seminar.

It is announced that the German government has decided to return to China the astronomical instruments which were transported from Pekin to Germany in 1900. Negotiations have been opened for the shipping of the instruments to China.—*Science*, April 18, 1919.